



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) and Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) A Reminder

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is issuing this bulletin as a reminder that all trawl vessels fishing for shrimp in federal waters of the South Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico must use BRDs and all shrimp trawl vessels in any waters of the southeast United States must use TEDs that are certified by NOAA Fisheries.

### Bycatch Reduction Device Requirements

#### South Atlantic

Since April 1997, BRDs have been required, with limited exceptions, in shrimp trawls being used to catch penaeid (brown, white, pink) shrimp in federal waters of the South Atlantic region. Legal BRDs included the "Fisheye," "Expanded Mesh," and "Expanded Mesh - Extended Funnel."

#### Gulf of Mexico

Since May 1998, BRDs have been required, with limited exceptions, in shrimp trawls towed in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico shoreward of the 100-fm (183-m) depth contour west of 85°30' W. longitude (western Gulf), the approximate longitude of Cape San Blas, Florida. Legal BRDs include the "Fisheye," "Gulf Fisheye," and "Jones-Davis."

Beginning in February 2004, BRDs are now also required, with limited exceptions, in all shrimp trawls towed in federal waters of the eastern Gulf of Mexico (east of 85°30' W. longitude) shoreward of the 100-fm (183-m) depth contour. All BRDs certified for the South Atlantic region, or the western Gulf are legal in the eastern Gulf. These include the "Fisheye," "Gulf Fisheye," "Expanded Mesh," "Expanded Mesh - Extended Funnel," and "Jones-Davis."

For the "Fisheye" and "Gulf Fisheye" BRDs used in the Gulf, no part of the lazy line attachment system may overlap the escape opening of the fisheyes.

Details regarding the configurations, construction, and installation of these BRD types are available by contacting NOAA Fisheries' Harvesting Technology Branch, Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula Facility, 3209 Frederic Street, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-1207; phone (228) 762-4591. Written specifications are also available via the Internet as Appendix D of the following regulations:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/regulations/inter622.htm>

### Turtle Excluder Device Requirements

NOAA Fisheries would also like to remind fishermen that as of April 15, 2003, in the Atlantic and August 21, 2003, in the Gulf of Mexico, trawls capable of catching shrimp that are required to use TEDs must use TEDs with new, larger escape openings. Currently TEDs used in inshore waters (landward of the COLREG demarcation line), except the inshore waters of Georgia and South Carolina, must have a minimum grid size of 32 inches by 32 inches with an opening size that is at least 44-inches stretched mesh. The Parker soft TED with the 56-inch opening and a hooped hard TED with a new larger opening can also be used in these waters.

TEDs that can be used in all waters of the southeast United States, including offshore waters and all waters off Georgia and South Carolina, must have a minimum grid size of 32 inches by 32 inches. These TEDs can either be the double cover flap TED or a TED with a 71-inch stretched mesh opening. A Parker soft TED with a 96-inch opening and a hooped hard TED with an opening large enough to release leatherback turtles can be also used.

As of May 28, 2004, the double cover flap TED may be used with a 24-inch flap. Note that these new TED configurations must meet other requirements such as the size of the escape hole cut; however, these requirements are too detailed to present in this

bulletin. For more information on construction and installation requirements, readers are urged to contact the NOAA Fisheries' Harvesting Technology Branch, Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula Facility, 3209 Frederic Street, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-1207; phone (228) 762-4591.

Additional TED installation information is also available at: <http://www.mslabs.noaa.gov/mslabs/harvest/harvesting.htm>

This and other news releases are available on the Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Department of Commerce.



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